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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,910	02/08/2002	Satoru Kawahara	020591	9398
38834	7590	05/10/2004	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				PATTERSON, MARC A
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
				1772

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/068,910	KAWAHARA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Marc A Patterson	1772

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 22 March 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-20.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: none.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: See attached.

ADVISORY ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed March 22, 2004 have been fully considered but have not been found to be persuasive.

1. Applicant argues, on page 7 of Paper No. 10, that the finality of the previous rejection should be withdrawn, because flexural rigidity was claimed in Claim 1 prior to amendment. However, flexural rigidity was not claimed at all prior to amendment, although the physical bending properties which are currently claimed as being attributable to the claimed flexural rigidity were limitations in the original claim.

Applicant also argues, on page 6, that although Nakajima et al teaches adjusting the flexural rigidity of a protective film for a polarizing plate, Nakajima et al does not teach adjusting the flexural rigidity of an optical film comprising a laminate of a polarizing plate, protective film and brightness enhancement film.

However, as stated on page 3 of the previous Action, a protective film for a polarizing plate is clearly also an optical film, as it protects an optical component, the polarizing plate. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the would have recognized the advantage of providing for the varying of thickness to obtain a desired flexural rigidity taught by Nakajima et al in Kameyama et al, which is also an optical film, depending on the flexibility of the desired end product as taught by Nakajima et al.

Applicant also argues, on page 6, that the teaching of Nakajima et al regarding a single layer film is not adaptable to a laminated film with plural layers, because the mechanics formula taught by Nakajima et al is for a single layer; therefore, Applicant argues, the comparison would not be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Art Unit: 1772

However, although the specific formula of Nakajima et al could not be used to adjust the thickness of Kameyama et al, the teaching in Nakajima et al of varying of thickness to obtain a desired flexural rigidity and thus a desired flexibility of the optical film would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teaching to the optical film of Kameyama et al in order to obtain a desired flexibility.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc Patterson, whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at (571) 272 – 1498. FAX communications should be sent to (703) 872-9310. FAXs received after 4 P.M. will not be processed until the following business day.

Marc A. Patterson, PhD.

Marc A. Patterson
Art Unit 1772

Harold Pyon
HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

5/30/04